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GROWTH OF ROMANIAN AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY PRODUCTION

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Because of direct Soviet aid, Rumania's machine building industry has made great progress in recent years. The 1953 production of tractors was 144 percent higher than that of 1950, and the 1953 production of reaper-binders was 335 percent higher than that of 1951. On the other hand, the production plan for animal-drawn plows and for other agricultural machines was not fulfilled for this period.

It is expected that Rumania will have 250 MTS by fall 1954, and 500 MTS with a combined total of 35,000-40,000 tractors and other machinery by the end of the second Five-Year Plan. The 1954 plan calls for a 3.73-percent increase in KD-35 tractors, a 2.10-percent increase in seeders, a 5.02-percent increase in reaper-binders, and a 52.54-percent increase in threshing machines over 1953. It further calls for the following increases in the production of spare parts: a 124-percent increase of IAR tractor parts, a 210-percent increase in KD-35 tractor parts, and a 250-percent increase in spare parts for other agricultural machinery. The 1954 production plan also calls for the following increases over 1953 production (in percent): forged shovels, 214; spades, 75; rakes, 231.4; pitchforks, 68; toothed harrows, 160; grafting knives, 95; vineyard tools, 95; and spray pumps, 57.5.

The manufacture of new machinery will be attempted for the first time by the following factories: the Semanatoarea Factory will produce animal-drawn reapers; the 7. Noiembrie Factory in Craiova will produce leveling harrows and toothed rollers; the Magheru Factory in Toplet will produce corn threshers; the I. C. Frimu Factory in Sinaia will be the only factory producing fuel pumps for the tractors manufactured in Stalin; and, similarly, the IMU [not further identified] Factory in Medgidia will be the only factory producing spare parts for these tractors.

The Semanatoarea Plant recently expanded its agricultural machinery production, and the Tudor Vladimirescu Plant recently canceled plans for the construction of a metal-goods section to expand its production of agricultural machinery. The Sovromutilaj petrolifer (Soviet-Rumanian Petroleum Equipment) Plant in Bocsa canceled plans for the start of refinery equipment production and maintained its present output of agricultural machinery [no date given].

A general conference for the improvement of the KD-35 tractor was held on 27 March 1954 at the Stalin Tractor Plant, and a series of changes were adopted. The use of an oil radiator reduced oil temperatures by 8-10 degrees centigrade, and the use of an oil filter with the ASF0-1 paper filter element produced a much higher degree of filtration. It was further reported at the meeting that the following factories are constantly supplying faulty or badly damaged parts to the Stalin Tractor Factory: the Metaloglobus Factory, the Industria Sirmei Factory in Cimpia Turzii, the IMD [not further identified] Factory in Braila, the Elastic Factory in Sibiu, and the Steagul Rosu Factory.

Other factories, however, continued to produce above norms [no dates given]. The I. C. Frimu Plant in Sinaia surpassed its spare parts production plan by 47 percent for the KD-35 tractor and by 23 percent for the IAR tractor. The Tehnometal Plant in Timisoara surpassed its plan for the production of IAR tractor spare parts by 25 percent and for other agricultural machinery by 67 percent.

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The total production of KD-35 tractors for the first quarter 1954 was fulfilled 101.5 percent, and the production of spare parts for this tractor was fulfilled 137.5 percent. In this same period, the nationwide production plan for animal-drawn plows was fulfilled 101 percent; for shovels, 128.6 percent, and for picks, 120 percent. However, during the same period, the country's production plan for reaper-binders was fulfilled only 50 percent; for shovels, 67 percent; and for rakes, 78 percent.

In the fourth quarter 1953, the IPRM (Institutul de Proiectari Mecanice, Institute for Machine Planning) developed improvements on the SL-52 reaper-binder.

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